

Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 6 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 17, and 18, and add Claims 19-34 to read as follows.

5.6 C1 >
1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing image formation based on image-formation data, said image processing apparatus causing a job data to include said image-formation data and a communication procedure for communicating with an external unit, and controlling said image formation in accordance with a result of communicating with said external unit based on said communication procedure in said job data,

wherein said communication procedure is a restriction procedure for restricting the use of said image processing apparatus for each user.

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2. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said job data is received from outside said image processing apparatus
said communication procedure determines to allow a user, who requests to print, to print or not by querying an external information apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further including image formation means wherein said communication procedure determines whether or not said image processing apparatus allows a user to print, by

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referring to the number of sheets of information the user already has printed and the
number of sheets of information which can be printed by the user, stored in said external
unit.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3,
wherein said communication procedure is a procedure for communicating with a charging
management unit for collecting charging information for charging each user for the
utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus.

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5. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3,
wherein said communication procedure is a procedure for communicating with an
image-formation-history management unit for recording the history of the utilizing
condition of said image processing apparatus for each user.

6. (Canceled)

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7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to
Claim 6 1, wherein said restriction procedure restricts based on the number of formed
images the use of said image processing apparatus.

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8. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein said communication procedure is used to pay a value necessary for image
formation.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein said communication procedure is independent for each image to be formed.

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10. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to

any one of Claims 1 to 9 5 and 7 to 9, wherein said external unit is a computer.

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11. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus connected to

an external unit via a network, said image processing apparatus comprising:

communication means for communicating with said external unit;

image processing means for generating image data from

image-formation data;

image output means for outputting to a medium images based on

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said image data; and

control means for controlling said image processing means and said

image output means;

wherein said communication means receives a job data including
said image-formation data and a procedure for communicating with said external unit, and
said control means executes said procedure in said job data to communicate with said
external unit, whereby controlling image-output processing based on said image-formation
data in accordance with a result of the communication with said external unit, and

wherein the job data is not required to be transmitted via a print
server, and

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said external unit is an image-formation-history management unit for recording the history of the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus for each user, and for restricting the use of said image processing apparatus based on the number of formed images.

12. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein an apparatus for supplying said job data to said image processing apparatus is connected to said network.

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13. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said external unit is a charging management unit for collecting charging information for charging each user for the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said external unit is a charge collector for charging each user for a value necessary for image formation.

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16. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said job data is independent for each image to be formed.

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17. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable recording medium

containing a program for controlling for an image processing apparatus forming images based on image-formation data, said ~~machine-readable recording medium containing a program for enabling a computer to have a function of~~ comprising:

code for a reception step, of receiving from the exterior a job data including said image formation data and a procedure for predetermined processing; ; and
code for a control step, of controlling image formation in accordance with the received procedure, and

wherein the job data is not required to be transmitted via a print server, and

the received procedure is a restriction procedure for restricting the use of said image processing apparatus.

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18. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable recording medium

containing a program ~~for enabling a computer, in~~ controlling an image processing apparatus forming images based on image-formation data, ~~to have a function of~~ said program comprising:

code for an include step, of causing a job data to include said image formation data and a communication procedure for communicating with an external unit;; and

code for a control step, of controlling said image formation in accordance with a result of communication with said external unit based on said communication procedure included in said job data, and

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server, and

wherein the job data is not required to be transmitted via a print

said communication procedure is a restriction procedure for

restricting the use of said image processing apparatus.

19. (Currently Added) A printing system which includes a printing device and plural servers which communicate with said printing device via a network, said printing system comprising:

input means for inputting address information of one of said servers to said printing device;

connecting control means for controlling said printing device to connect to said server corresponding to address information entered by said input means wherein said input means inputs document identification information and user identification information to said printing device;

transfer means for transferring said document identification information and said user identification information inputted by said input means from said printing device to said server;

confirmation means for confirming whether said user identification information entered by said input means is valid or not; and

obtaining means for obtaining document data corresponding to said document identification information entered by said input means for said server when said confirmation means confirms said user identification information is valid.

20. (Currently Added) A printing system according to claim 19, wherein said input means is an operation panel of said printing device.

21. (Currently Added) A printing system according to claim 19, wherein said confirmation means is implemented in a server on said network that manages a charge for printing service,

said confirmation means retrieves user identification information from said printing device and confirms whether said user identification information is valid or not, and

said confirmation means provides a confirmation response result that shows validity of said user identification information to said printing device in accordance with a request from said printing device.

22. (Currently Added) A printing device comprising:
input means for inputting address information of one of a plural of servers to said printing device;

connecting control means for controlling said printing device to connect to said server corresponding to the address information entered by said input means, wherein said input means further inputs document identification information and user identification information to said printing device;

transfer means for transferring said document identification information and said user identification information inputted by said input means from said printing device to said server apparatus;

obtaining means for obtaining document data corresponding to said document identification information entered by said input means for said server when said printing device receives a message confirming said user identification information is valid from said server.

23. (Currently Added) A printing device according to claim 22, wherein said input means is an operation panel.

24. (Currently Added) An information apparatus which communicates with a printing device, said information apparatus comprising:

first obtaining means for obtaining user identification information from said printing device;

request means for requesting document identification information to said printing device;

second obtaining means for obtaining document data corresponding to said document identification information retrieved from said printing device in response to the request from said request means;

validation means for validating whether said user identification information obtained by said first obtaining means is valid;

transfer means for transferring document data obtained by said second obtaining means to said printing device when said validation means validates that said user identification information is valid.

25. (Currently Added) A method for controlling a printing system which includes a printing device and plural servers which communicate with said printing device via a network, said method comprising:

an input step, of inputting address information of one of said servers to said printing device;

a connecting control step, of controlling said printing device to connect to said server corresponding to address information entered in said input step wherein said input step inputs document identification information and user identification information to said printing device;

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a transfer step, of transferring said document identification information and said user identification information inputted in said input step from said printing device to a communication link;

a confirmation step, of confirming whether said user identification information entered in said input step is valid or not; and

an obtaining step, of obtaining document data corresponding to said document identification information entered in said input step for said server when said confirmation step confirms said user identification information is valid.

26. (Currently Added) A method for controlling a printing system according to claim 25, wherein said input step is implemented via an operation panel of said printing device.

27. (Currently Added) A method for controlling a printing system according to claim 25, wherein said confirmation step is implemented in a server on said network that manages a charge for printing service,

said confirmation step retrieves user identification information from said printing device and confirms whether said user identification information is valid or not, and

said confirmation step provides a confirmation response result that shows validity of said user identification information to said printing device in accordance with a request from said printing device.

28. (Currently Added) A method for controlling a printing device, said method comprising:

an input step, of inputting address information of one of a plural of servers to said printing device;

a connecting control step, of controlling said printing device to connect to said server corresponding to the address information entered in said input step, wherein said input step further inputs document identification information and user identification information to said printing device;

a transfer step, of transferring said document identification information and said user identification information inputted in said input step from said printing device to said server apparatus;

an obtaining step, of obtaining document data corresponding to said document identification information entered in said input step for said server when said printing device receives a message confirming said user identification information is valid from said server.

29. (Currently Added) A method for controlling a printing device according to claim 28, wherein said input step is implemented via an operation panel.

30. (Currently Added) A machine-readable recording medium containing a program for controlling a printing system which includes a printing device and plural servers which communicate with said printing device via a network, said program comprising:

code for an input step, of inputting address information of one of said servers to said printing device;

code for a connecting control step, of controlling said printing device to connect to said server corresponding to address information entered in said input step wherein said input step inputs document identification information and user identification information to said printing device;

code for a transfer step, of transferring said document identification information and said user identification information inputted in said input step from said printing device to a communication link;

code for a confirmation step, of confirming whether said user identification information entered in said input step is valid or not; and

code for an obtaining step, of obtaining document data corresponding to said document identification information entered in said input step for said server when said confirmation step confirms said user identification information is valid.

31. (Currently Added) A machine-readable recording medium containing a program for controlling a printing device, said program comprising:
code for an input step, of inputting address information of one of a plural of servers to said printing device;

code for a connecting control step, of controlling said printing device to connect to said server corresponding to the address information entered in said input step, wherein said input step further inputs document identification information and user identification information to said printing device;

code for a transfer step, of transferring said document identification information and said user identification information inputted in said input step from said printing device to said server apparatus;

code for an obtaining step, of obtaining document data corresponding to said document identification information entered in said input step for said server when said printing device receives a message confirming said user identification information is valid from said server.

32. (Currently Added) A machine-readable recording medium containing a program for controlling an information apparatus which communicates with a printing device, said program comprising:

code for a first obtaining step, of obtaining user identification information from said printing device;

code for a request step, of requesting document identification information to said printing device;

code for a second obtaining step, of obtaining document data corresponding to said document identification information retrieved from said printing device in response to the request made in said request step;

code for a validation step, of validating whether said user identification information obtained in said first obtaining step is valid;

code for a transfer step, of transferring document data obtained in said second obtaining step to said printing device when said validation step validates that said user identification information is valid.

33. (Currently Added) An image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus performing image formation based on image-formation data, said image processing method comprising:

an include step, of causing job data to include said image-formation data and a communication procedure for communicating with an external unit; and

a control step, of controlling said image formation in accordance with a result of communicating with said external unit based on said communication procedure,

wherein said communication procedure is a restriction procedure for restricting the use of said image processing apparatus.

34. (Currently Added) An image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus connected to an external unit via a network, said image processing method comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with said external unit;
an image processing step, of generating image data from image-formation data;

an image output step, of outputting to a medium images based on said image data; and

a control step, of controlling said image processing step and said image output step;

wherein said communication step receives job data including said image-formation data and a procedure for communicating with said external unit, and said control step executes said procedure in said job data to communicate with said external unit, whereby controlling image-output processing based on said image-formation data in accordance with a result of the communication with said external unit,

wherein said job data is not required to be transmitted via a print server, and

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said external unit is an image-formation-history management unit
for recording the history of the utilizing condition of said image processing apparatus for
each user, and for restricting the use of said image processing apparatus based on the
number of formed images.
